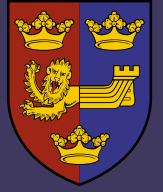


St Edmundsbury Cathedral



Annual Review 2020

2020 Overview from the Dean

When we said that we planned that 2020 would be 'a year like no other', the outcome wasn't exactly what we had anticipated. What transpired was a series of national lockdowns, the suspension of public worship, the spectre of massive financial deficit and redundancies. All of this alongside a rising national death toll, massive pressure on National Health and other front-line services and a year lost in our schools, not to mention grief and anxiety, isolation, and mental health concerns.

We wondered how we could possibly maintain, let alone develop worship, music, pastoral care, hospitality, learning, good relationships: all the virtues on which a cathedral is built.

Yet gradually, little by little, new life emerged. An abundance of worship and music, delivered online; initially from the Cathedral, then during the tightest days of lockdown, from sitting rooms, organs and pianos in back bedrooms. We discovered other areas of growth, a resilience we perhaps did not realise we had, new skills, a simpler way of worshipping and relating, a greater appreciation of what we had previously taken for granted, and a determination to safeguard what we have learned when all this is over.

A gradual vaccine-led recovery is a joyful prospect. All that has been cancelled for 2020 (and most of 2021) will be rescheduled for a 2022 of thanksgiving, restoration, consolation and celebration; a royal platinum Jubilee, festivals for our nation and county and of course the Abbey of St Edmund Millennium events.



All of these things give us the chance to throw wide the doors of Cathedral and communities once again, giving thanks to the God who has been with us throughout.

Joe Hawes,
Dean of St Edmundsbury

Joe Hawes

Contents

- 4 Worship
- 5 Mission
- 6 Hospitality
- 7 Sustainability
- 8 Finances
- 9 2020 in pictures

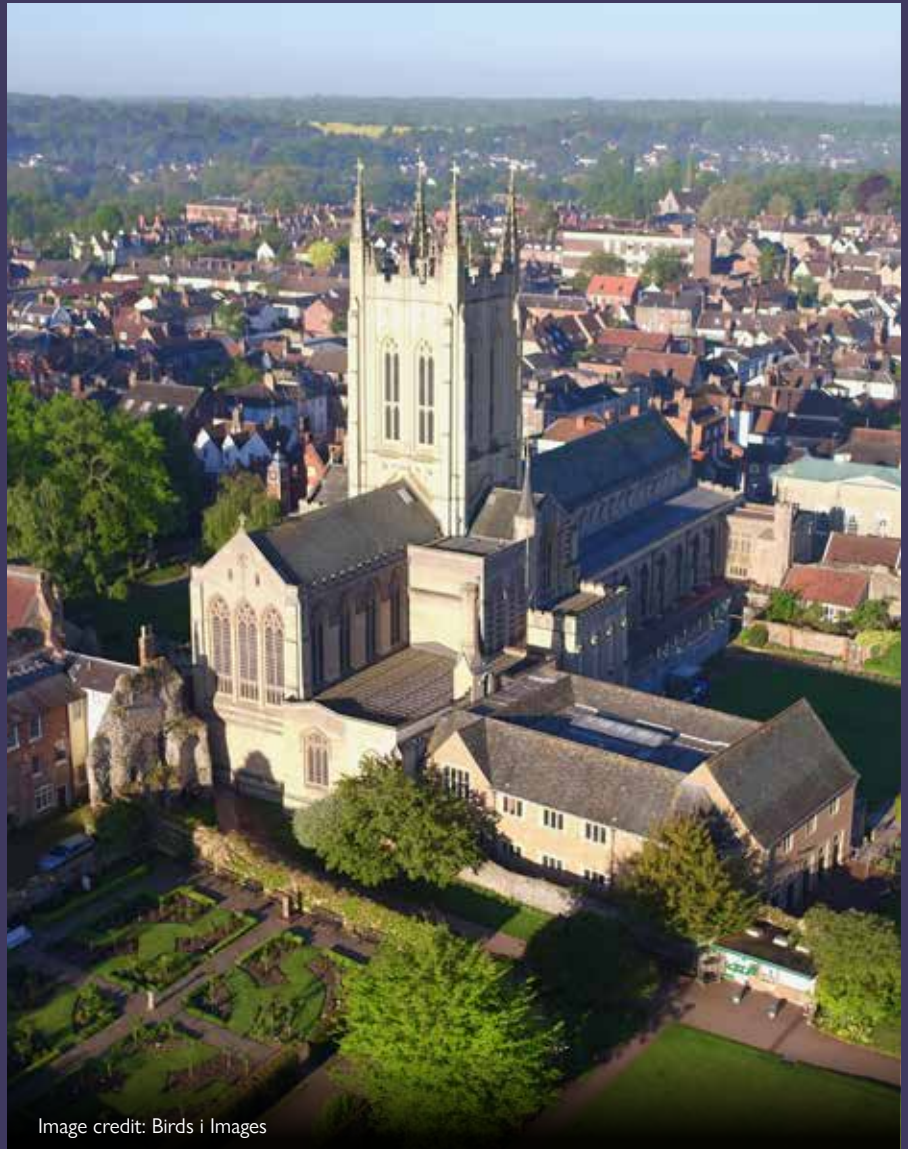


Image credit: Birds i Images

Worship

Cathedral and auxiliary clergy tirelessly ensured that the sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated daily, since the pandemic lockdowns began, for everyone to access virtually on Facebook or physically when possible. Our vergers' team made livestreaming work, bringing our daily worship into people's homes.

Online worship was a vital resource for the vulnerable and housebound, a gateway for those considering joining in person, a link for those who live far away.

Our musicians and singers responded to the enormous challenges of the pandemic in an extraordinary way by providing music (both choral and instrumental) in a wide variety of ways for daily worship. These included the establishment of a new girls' choir; a successful virtual recruitment video; a 'be a chorister' day; daily music/written reflections as part of our 'ministry through music'; a regular 'hymn-sing-along'; virtual meetings for practice and musicianship lessons; weekly Friday recitals (virtual); and a special virtual organ recital celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Harrison and Harrison organ.

The *InHarmony* music outreach project work continued too – of special note was the Advent/Christmas resource for parishes, commended by the Bishop to all parishes.

Norman Tower Bellringers also rang bells, within COVID guidelines, whenever possible. When that was not possible, they met either to do hand-bell ringing or to create 'virtual' ringing to enhance our worship.



Mission

The Pastoral Support Team and clergy were telephoning and offering practical help to the vulnerable throughout the year. Home Communions were only possible *in extremis*. In September we were able to hold the annual Remembering Together service for those who have suffered a child bereavement. We focused our response to Black Lives Matter and systemic racism in society, and worked towards becoming a dementia-friendly cathedral. Our Pilgrim's Kitchen manager and chef, Nikki and Paul, provided 100 meals a week for those in need.

The close relationship between the Cathedral and Diocese means we benefited from the presence of Archdeacon Sally Gaze and Canon Michael Robinson. As a result, there was a 'Run with Joy' course of Benedictine wisdom for daily living; a Cathedral and 'Lightwave' community partnership which developed county celebrations of the agricultural year; we offered a wonderfully conceived Lent course and recruited our Holy Week preacher.



The lockdown hit the Discovery Centre's work hard – we were due to work with 272 children just before Easter 2020 - but we did manage some activities:

- a monthly Saturday 'youth group in the basement' who shared and washed mugs during Lent in 2020 to increase eco-awareness of the green footprint of disposable cups, and who also made cards and small gifts for those who were shielding;
- the first Starting-Rite course for young babies and their carers;
- Junior Church worship on Sundays - by Zoom, or distanced in the Edmund Room;
- Diddy Disciples gathered in person or by Zoom since the end of April 2020, and a library of stories, songs and activities for families to share is on the website;
- a well-attended half term arrow-making workshop to create a Crown and Arrows sculpture to hang in the Cathedral for St Edmund's Day.



Hospitality

Without the commitment and support of volunteers, we could not have re-opened as we did in 2020. We only approached those volunteers who felt comfortable with coming to the Cathedral: the health and welfare of staff, volunteers and visitors had to come first. For some this meant a whole year without volunteering. Some decided to retire; others took on new volunteering roles as welcomers, chaplains and shop assistants. Many volunteers assisted with Junior Church and Diddy Disciples; with recording facts about the Cathedral in '60 second snippets'; and with producing online resources for the key festivals.

We knew it was important to keep in touch so we sent regular email updates to the whole Guild (of volunteers) and to groups within the Guild. There was a livestreamed service for Volunteers' Week in June and a volunteers' service for St Edmund's Day, which included video interviews with three volunteers receiving 35-year and 40-year long-service awards. We wished Alan McAndrew and Canon Lawrence Pizzey, who had long co-ordinated Groundforce and chaplains' rotas respectively, a happy and well-deserved retirement.

We needed to sustain online engagement throughout the year with the wider Cathedral community so the website was expanded to include online resources such as videos of services, virtual pilgrimages, music reflections and a virtual prayer wall. Our Facebook page was particularly busy because this was where the services were livestreamed each day. Other online highlights included Come and Sing events; chorister training and recruitment organised by the musicians; the Advent posada posts (which resulted in 2652 post engagements between Advent Sunday and Christmas day); and the successful talks in partnership with the Abbey Heritage Partnership with nearly 250 people watching 'live'.

The Cathedral has been leading a collaboration of organisations, groups and individuals, called The Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership, which is focused on bringing – through conservation, learning and interpretation - the international significance of St Edmund and the historic Abbey to the people of Suffolk and beyond. In 2020 we developed and then consulted on an overarching plan which can be seen on our newly-launched website www.abbeyofstedmund.org



Abbey of St Edmund ruins



Volunteering in the garden

Sustainability

Our plans to develop further our financial sustainability were torpedoed by the lockdowns, although the year-end deficit of £2,526 was very much smaller than the £150,000 we initially envisaged. We were saved by a series of rescue packages, our own financial prudence and the incredible support of our Cathedral community.

Our staff worked tirelessly – some of them working one minute, then furloughed the next. This enabled the Cathedral to obtain just under £140,000 under the government job retention scheme. We also claimed business rates relief and were awarded just over £60,000 in local authority grants. The Church Commissioners gave us much-needed additional funding, on top of their annual support, through the Cathedral Sustainability Fund.



Our properties provided an important financial contribution to the Cathedral. Our tenants David Burr, Peel and Gudgin and the Hunter Gallery continued to pay us rent throughout the year. Pilgrims' Kitchen restaurant and the Cathedral shop, operated by Cathedral Enterprises, also contributed £30k rent, which is a real achievement considering they were closed for much of the year.

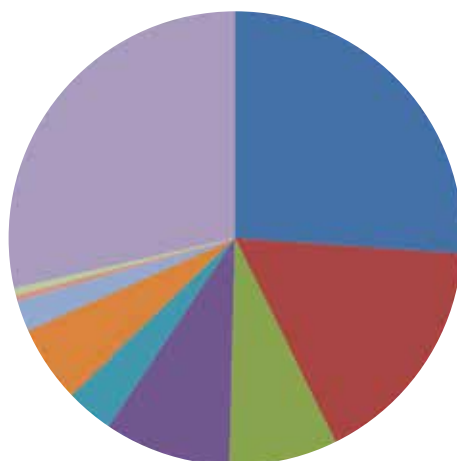
Even with the significant periods of closure, visitor numbers were just under 30,000 which was about 40% of what we would normally expect. These visitor figures, together with the excellent summer weather, helped Pilgrims Kitchen to operate at around 70% of normal sales in July, while the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme in August meant sales were 10% higher than those in August 2019. This trend continued into October. To help things along further, a marquee with space for ten tables (with the appropriate distancing and fully heated and lit) was erected in the restaurant's garden. This was very popular with customers.



We were extremely fortunate that our congregation, patrons and Cathedral community supported us through this challenging time with their continued giving, membership renewals and additional donations, totalling £259k. Gift Aid tax recovered on these voluntary donations provided a further £26.2k. It was extraordinary generosity.

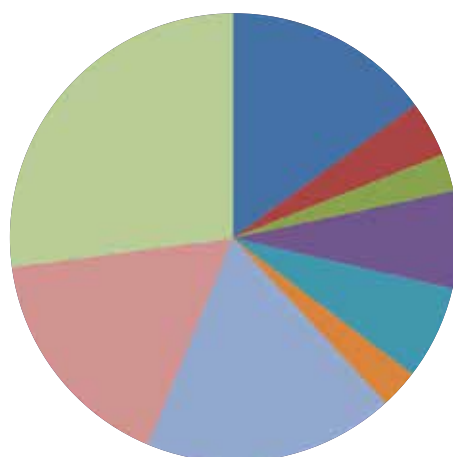
The Cathedral survived a challenging year. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this possible.

Finances 2019



Income 2019

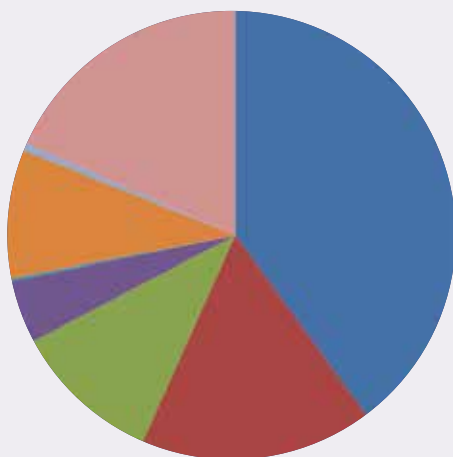
Church Commissioners	21.6%
Congregation & Giving	16.6%
Donations & Patrons	7.7%
Visitors	9.0%
Events & Exhibitions	3.4%
Commercial Property	5.5%
Facility & Other Fees	2.2%
Music & Choirs	0.5%
Discovery Centre	0.5%
Retail & Rental	28.6%



Expenditure 2019

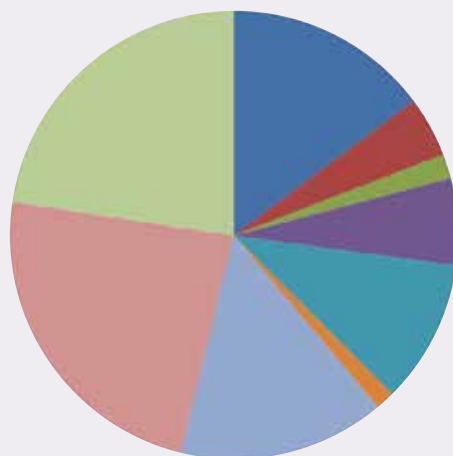
Ministry	14.8%
Visitors Facilities & Support	4.0%
Events & Exhibitions	2.7%
Vergers	7.1%
Music & Choirs	6.8%
Discovery Centre	2.8%
Cathedral & Site Upkeep	17.9%
Administration	16.8%
Retail & Rental Overheads	27.1%

Finances 2020



Income 2020

Church Commissioners	39.8%
Congregation & Giving	17.1%
Donations & Patrons	10.6%
Visitors	4.4%
Events & Exhibitions	0.2%
Commercial Property	8.9%
Facility & Other Fees	0.5%
Retail & Rental	18.6%



Expenditure 2020

Ministry	14.8%
Visitors Facilities & Support	4.3%
Events & Exhibitions	1.8%
Vergers	6.2%
Music & Choirs	10.4%
Discovery Centre	1.4%
Cathedral & Site Upkeep	15%
Administration	23.6%
Retail & Rental Overheads	22.6%

These pie charts are included for information purposes only and are intended to present an overall picture of how our various strands of work are performing financially. Copies of St Edmundsbury Cathedral's statutory annual report and audited accounts are available on request from the Cathedral.

2020 in pictures



Image credit: Jo Sweetman



St Edmundsbury Cathedral



A thousand years of God's love in Suffolk

stedscathedral.org